

Appl. No. : 10/791,111
Filed : March 2, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2006, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

In the March 23, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejected or objected to Claims 1-19 on the following grounds. First, the Examiner objected to Claim 6 as being unclear. The Examiner then rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 11, 13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,896,087 issued to Korenjak et al. (hereinafter "Korenjak"). The Examiner also rejected Claims 2-4, 14-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korenjak. Further, the Examiner rejected Claims 12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korenjak in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,327,989 issued to Furuhashi et al. (hereinafter "Furuhashi"). Nevertheless, the Examiner also indicated that Claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the present amendment, the Applicants will have amended Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-9, 14, 18, and 19. Applicants also note that Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Finally, new Claims 20-25 have been submitted for consideration. Therefore, Claims 1-6 and 8-25 are currently pending in the application.

In the changes made by the current amendment, deletions are shown by strikethrough (e.g., ~~deletion~~), and additions are underlined (e.g., addition). Applicants believe that the present amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

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Traversal of Objection of Claim 6

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 6. The Examiner objected to Claim 6 as being unclear, and specifically objected to the language “plane that passes extends along the top end.”

The Applicants have now amended Claim 6 to clarify that “the output shaft is positioned vertically lower than *a generally horizontally extending third plane, the third plane being defined through the top end of the seat.*” The Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes the objection of the Examiner with respect to Claim 6.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his objection of Claim 6.

Amended Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-9, 14, 18, and 19

The Examiner merely objected to Claims 7-10 and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the Examiner’s indication, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 (the base claim of Claim 7) to include the limitations of Claim 7. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-6 and 8-13 which depend from Claim 1, are now in condition for allowance.

Further, the Applicants have also amended independent Claims 14, 18, and 19 to include the features of Claim 7. The Applicants believe that such amendments also place these claims in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner indicate that Claims 14, 18, and 19, as well as Claims 15-17 which depend from Claim 14, are allowable over the art of record.

Finally, the Applicants note that Claims 3, 5, and 8-9 have also been amended to correct claim dependency and to reflect the antecedent basis now provided in amended Claim 1. These claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

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New Claims 20-25

The Applicants also submit new Claims 20-25, which depend from independent Claim 1, for consideration. The Applicants believe that these claims provide additional features; and that such claims should be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate allowance of Claims 20-25.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above objections have been overcome and that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate allowance of Claims 1-6 and 8-25. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

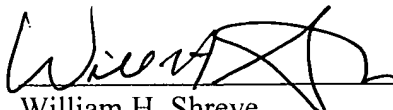
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections and objections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney, William H. Shreve at (949) 721-2895 (direct line), to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: July 21, 2006

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